

NUTRITION SERVICES DIVISION MANAGEMENT BULLETIN

No.: 00-403

TO:	All Food Distribution Agencies	ISSUE DATE: February 2000
FROM:	Commodity Distribution Unit, Food Distribution Program	
ATTENTION:	Food Service Directors	
SUBJECT:	United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Best If Used By (BIUB) Procedures	

This management bulletin transmits information regarding the correct definition and application of the "Best If Used By" (BIUB) procedures for USDA commodity foods.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) defines the BIUB date as a recommended guideline to identify how long a product will retain the best flavor and quality. BIUB is not an indicator of product safety. A USDA list of suggested BIUB storage periods for commodities is attached for your information.

Please review and implement the following procedures to avoid commodity losses:

- Use the proper commodity storage procedures as outlined in Chapter Five of the Commodity Administrative Manual.
- Use commodities approaching the BIUB date before any other like product. When timely use of the commodity is not possible, it may be transferred to another agency that will use it within the proper time frame. Agencies must contact their commodity consultant for assistance in locating eligible agencies to receive the food and to make arrangements for transfer.

If you have any questions regarding this management bulletin, please contact: Amy Bell, Child Nutrition Consultant for Southern California, at (916) 322-5051, (800) 952-5609, or abell@cde.ca.gov; or Carol Guenther-Wilson, Child Nutrition Consultant for Northern California, at (916) 324-9875, (800) 952-5609, or cguenth@cde.ca.gov.

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